



**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, June 21, 2007**  
**Wisconsin Rapids City Council Chambers**  
**9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**LRSC Members Present**

**Wisconsin Counties Association:**

Dan Fedderly  
Bruce Stelzner

**WisDOT Staff Present:**

Rod Clark  
Mary Forlenza  
Will Kline  
Lori Richter

**Wisconsin Towns Association:**

Arlyn Helm  
Gene Lueck  
Terry McMahon

**Wisconsin Alliance of Cities:**

Dave Botts  
Rick Jones  
Jeff Mantes  
Paula Vandehey

**Regional Planning Commissions/  
Metro Planning Organizations:**

Joni Graves  
Walt Raith  
Jeffrey Agee – Aguayo

**Others Present:**

Tracey McKenney (FHWA)  
Steve Pudloski (UW-TIC)  
Don Walker (UW-TIC)

**League of Wisconsin Municipalities:**

Dennis Jordan  
Bill Beil, Jr.

**LRSC Members Excused:**

Emmer Shields (WCA)  
Dick Leffler (WCA)  
Sheldon Johnson (MPO/RPC)  
Marilyn Bhend (WTA)

**I. Opening business (Paula Vandehey, Mary Forlenza)**

- A. The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m.
- B. The Council welcomed new WisDOT staff Will Kline and Lori Richter.
- C. March 22, 2007 minutes
  - 1. Joni Graves sent several changes to the meeting minutes via email, which will be incorporated into the minutes before posting to the Web site.
  - 2. A motion was made to accept the minutes.
  - 3. The motion carried.

**II. Technical Presentation (Steve Pudloski (UW-TIC), Don Walker (UW-TIC))**

- A. New Transportation Research Effort: Local Safety Initiative
  - 1. UW-TIC is a cooperative effort between WisDOT, UW Extension and FHWA to provide training and technical assistance to local governments. Don Walker, current Director, will be stepping down July 1, 2007. Steve Pudloski has been named the new Director.
  - 2. Don Walker introduced the Local Safety Initiative, funded by WisDOT and FHWA.
  - 3. Steve Pudloski described the Local Safety Initiative. This small, 2-year pilot program is a joint initiative between the TOPS Lab and UW-TIC. This grant program will provide direct technical assistance in areas of the state with serious safety issues. The UW TOPS Lab will identify "hot spots," and provide crash data and analysis. UW-TIC "safety circuit riders" will provide outreach to local governments. The circuit riders will work with the TOPS Lab to develop mitigation strategies to suggest to the local governments. There is currently no funding in the Local Safety Initiative to make actual safety improvements.
  - 4. Steve requested LRSC members' assistance recommending potential part-time circuit riders. These individuals should have a background in traffic safety/traffic engineering.
  - 5. Long-term goals of the project are to provide direct technical assistance to local units of government, facilitate the use of crash data, identify funding opportunities for safety projects, and identify best practices.
  - 6. Paula asked if there would be a grant application process associated with this initiative. Steve responded that he did not believe that would be the case. He indicated the TOPS Lab would provide the initial list of "hot spots" around the state. Additional requests would also be accepted through an informal method to be determined.
  - 7. Rod suggested that identification of safety issues through this initiative would put local governments with "hot spots" in a network with WisDOT's statewide safety committee, which plays a decision-making role regarding where safety money is allocated.
  - 8. Mary recommended to Steve that the LRSC could announce the project and solicit circuit rider candidates in an upcoming edition of its newsletter. Steve agreed to forward information to Mary to be included in the fall newsletter.
- B. UW-TIC LTAP Activities for FY 2008
  - 1. Steve announced upcoming UW-TIC workshops would include Winter Road Maintenance in October 2007, Highway Safety in November 2007, Work Zone Traffic Control in January 2008, and Road Maintenance in March 2008. The second round of PASER/WISLR training will be coming in August 2007. Steve will meet with Renee Callaway next week to discuss whether another round of Safe Routes to School workshops is needed.

2. Steve announced that last year was very successful for UW-TIC. 450 people attended PASER/WISLR workshops, 1,500 towns officials attended town road workshops at 12 locations.
3. The latest edition of the Crossroads newsletter was just published. Crossroads has a new editor beginning with the current edition; Steve requested feedback from council members. Mary recommended that council members read the current Crossroads article from Cameron Bump at DNR regarding culvert replacement and DNR liaisons.

### **III. Local Programs Update (Mary Forlenza, Will Kline, Rod Clark)**

#### **A. STP & Local Bridge Status – Finance, Schedule, Approvals**

1. Mary provided an update on STP-Urban, STP-Rural, and Local Bridge programs, and explained in detail how Wisconsin was moving forward to approve new projects, while working with local communities throughout the state to manage overscheduling issues for SFYs 2008-2010.
2. WisDOT is on target for its approval cycle timeline; STP-Urban approvals will be sent to locals the week of July 6<sup>th</sup>, STP-Rural approvals will be sent several weeks later. Local Bridge will be approved in August. These will be posted on the Web site three weeks after they are sent out to locals
3. Paula asked Rod to convey to Jay Neider the significant problem that moving a project schedule may create for a local community. When a project is delayed over a second winter into the next construction season, it may play a role in the appropriate type of temporary surface used on the road.

#### **B. Outreach to Local Units of Government**

1. Mary provided an update on WisDOT's outreach efforts, which are part of the department's streamlining efforts. SE and NC regions both held training symposia for locals this past winter/spring. Council members that attended provided positive feedback to the group. All WisDOT regions will hold similar meetings by late 2008-early 2009, in time for the next local improvement program cycle.
2. WisDOT staff met with the counties at the WCHA Conference last week.
3. Wisconsin has seen 30% turnover of town officials this year. WisDOT will attend the WTA Convention in October to conduct outreach with town officials. Lori Richter will be providing a presentation on General Transportation Aids (GTA) and the Local Roads Improvement Program (LRIP). This is a pavement-rating year (ratings due to WisDOT from locals December 15<sup>th</sup>), so Susie Forde and staff will have a booth at the Convention, and will provide training sessions on PASER/WISLR and submitting pavement ratings.

#### **C. Local Roads Improvement Program (LRIP) Kick-off Meetings**

1. LRIP 2008-2009 begins July 1<sup>st</sup>. Mary distributed the LRIP Kickoff Workshops schedule to council members.
2. Lori Richter announced there are 7 biennial information meetings scheduled throughout the state from mid-July through mid-August. Cities and villages greater than 20,000 in population have received invitations to these meetings. The program will continue to be managed based on the 8 WCHA districts.

#### **D. Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Approval Schedule**

1. SRTS is a 100% federal funding programs, focused on K-8. WisDOT had a very successful SRTS kickoff. UW-TIC and SRTS Program Manager Renee Callaway conducted SRTS workshops throughout the state. WisDOT received 91 applications for the first cycle of SRTS, totaling \$15.7 million. WisDOT staff

will be meeting with Secretary Busalacchi this coming Monday to recommend 22 infrastructure projects for a total of \$3.1 million, and 25 planning projects for a total of \$800K. WisDOT anticipates kicking off the next program cycle in January 2008. After the second program cycle WisDOT plans to solicit SRTS applications on a biennial basis.

#### **IV. Sub-committees**

- A. WisDOT staff will staff LRSC sub-committees as follows:
  - 1. Executive – Mary Forlenza
  - 2. Education and Communication – Lori Richter
  - 3. Regulatory, Environmental & Legislative – Will Kline
  - 4. Local Transportation Finance – Lori Richter
  - 5. Infrastructure Management – Will Kline
- B. WisDOT staff will work together on issues that cross sub-committees and to ensure sub-committees stay on task.
- C. Mary is working with Kurt Witynski to fill 2 vacancies on the LRSC and committees – these individuals will be assigned to the IM and Finance committees. Mary will announce these assignments at the September meeting. Mary noted that the REAL committee does not have representation from the Alliance of Cities. Mary suggested to the group that it would be good to have a couple of larger cities represented on this committee, and asked for members to think about possible candidates. Please contact Mary Forlenza or Dennis Jordan with any recommendations for the REAL committee. It is not necessary for the individual to be a council member to serve on the REAL committee.
- D. The group broke into committees to schedule (at least 2) meetings for the remainder of the year. Committee meeting dates and location are:
  - 1. Executive
    - a) September 6 (after Executive Committee meeting 10 AM-12 PM), Lake Geneva
    - b) November 8 (after Executive Committee meeting 10 AM-12 PM), Madison Central Office (4802 Sheboygan Ave., Madison – room TBD)
  - 2. Education and Communication
    - a) July 10 (10 AM-12 PM), Madison Central Office (4802 Sheboygan Ave., Madison – room TBD)
    - b) October 12 (10 AM-12 PM), Portage County Hwy. Office
  - 3. Regulatory, Environmental & Legislative
    - a) July 12 (10 AM-12 PM), Portage County Hwy. Office
    - b) Scheduling 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting at the sub-committee meeting on July 12<sup>th</sup>
  - 4. Local Transportation Finance
    - a) October 4 (10 AM-12 PM), Portage County Hwy. Office
    - b) November 8 (after Executive Committee meeting 10 AM-12 PM), Madison Central Office (4802 Sheboygan Ave., Madison – room TBD)
  - 5. Infrastructure Management
    - a) September 19 (10 AM-12 PM), Portage County Hwy. Office
    - b) November 15 (10 AM-12 PM), Portage County Hwy. Office
- E. WisDOT staff will follow-up with Lori at Portage County to set up rooms for committee meetings at that location, and will post the updated schedule on the LRSC Web site.

#### **V. Biennial Budget Update**

- A. Rod Clark provided an update on the State Biennial Budget.

1. The budget has cleared the Joint Finance Committee. Joint Finance Committee (JFC) has a rule that it takes a majority of committee votes (9 votes) to make a modification to the Governor's budget; 8 votes is needed to approve the Governor's budget and move it on to the Senate. After much discussion and packages of comprehensive changes from both sides, neither garnered more than 8 votes. Therefore, almost 95% of the Governor's budget prevailed and was sent to the Senate without recommendation. The budget is now in the partisan caucus process where Senate Democrats will put together their package, Assembly Republicans considering not passing anything at all.
2. In Wisconsin, there are provisions for moving on to a new fiscal year without a budget. We continue spending at same appropriation level as previous biennium. However, anything with uneven funding or bond-funded (highway program) would not be funded moving forward. There has also been discussion of shifting some funds from the Transportation Fund. The Legislative Fiscal Bureau has issued a memo indicating the ramifications of no passed budget.
3. One addition to the budget was from the LFB to adopt the LRSC proposal from the previous budget to enumerate funds (1%) from LRIP for the DNR liaison positions. This addition passed (16-0) by JFC. Rod recommended that council members look at Cameron Bump's article in Crossroads for more information regarding DNR's "One Stop Shopping." Rod stressed that this change institutionalizes the concept of permanent staff support from DNR. Mary added that because WisDOT would fund these positions, it provides the department and the council with an opportunity to provide input on liaison responsibilities. She suggested that the council might want to have Cameron Bump give a presentation about DNR's vision to the REAL committee.
- B. Rod announced that Joe Nestler has returned to WisDOT as a Director for the Bureau of State Highway Programs. Joe formerly worked in the Bureau of State Highway Programs, but left to pursue a consulting business one year ago. Rod said that Joe was the single reason the WISLR project was completed.
- C. Rod provided an update of Federal Programs. Congress is committed to getting appropriations bills out before beginning of fiscal year. Transportation bill is on track, and may be to the President by mid-August. There is also a technical corrections bill relating to eligibility of minor collectors that should be passed sometime this summer.

## **VI. Closing Business**

- A. Draft Agenda for September Council Meeting.
  1. Technical Presentations – following are several possibilities:
    - a) Railroads/Crossings.
    - b) Real Estate.
    - c) Panel on Oversize/Overweight Vehicle Issues – Panel including WisDOT staff from State Patrol, Operations, and from Permit side. Mary has already begun discussions with WisDOT staff regarding who might be appropriate staff to sit on the panel.
    - d) Wetlands Proposal with Army Corps of Engineers
    - e) DNR Single Point of Contact
  2. Connections 2030 Update.

3. Committee Updates – Committee Chairs would give updates and detail plans for this year and upcoming year. WisDOT staff will pull together historical information to current committee chairs.
- B. Other Council Updates.
  1. Dave Botts has agreed to be Vice Chair of the Council, starting next meeting.
  2. Mary provided updated Council lists to members.
- C. There were no additional assignments/action items.
- D. Meeting Adjourned.